

Fair tonight. Thursday fair, with rising temperature; fresh northerly winds, shifting to easterly.

The Evening Times

A Washington Paper
For Washington People.

Number 2071.

WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19, 1902.

Price One Cent.

PALMA REGRETS SUGAR DECISION

Says Proposed Cut Will Not Help Island.

THE REDUCTION NOT SUFFICIENT

Declares That at Least Forty Per Cent Cut Is Required.

DISAPPOINTMENT FOR CUBA

Asserts, However, That People Will Not Seek Annexation—Says They Would Rather Starve as a Republic Than Flourish as a Dependency.

NEW YORK, March 19.—Gen. T. Estrada Palma, president-elect of the Cuban Republic, is in the city to confer with the members of the Cuban Commercial bodies that are fighting for tariff concessions from the United States.

He has had a conference with Secretary of State Taft and Senator Capote, who arrived from Cuba on the Ward line steamship Mexico, and he will remain in New York for several days in consultation with the prominent Cubans of this city, and those who have recently come from the island.

He will go to Cuba sometime in April, and will assume the office of president on May 1, the date set for the evacuation of the island by the American military forces.

General Palma was found this morning at Andres Muro's Hotel on West Fourteenth Street, which he always makes his headquarters when in this city. He was engaged in a very fast and earnest conversation with some of his Cuban visitors, in regard to yesterday's action by the Republicans of the House of Representatives in passing a resolution declaring for a 20 per cent reduction on the tariff on imports from Cuba, the reduction to be limited in the bill to be passed, to December 1, 1903, when the question will be changed by the abolishment of sugar bounties in Europe.

General Palma, when asked to comment on the resolution, said:

"It will be very disappointing to the Cuban people. I do not wish to criticize the action of Congress, but that is the only reply I can make to your question."

"We asked for a reduction that would be sufficient not only to permit the sugar planters to meet the actual expenses of operating the mills, but to give them some profit, some benefit."

"We have said from the beginning, that a reduction of 50 per cent, or possibly 40 per cent, was necessary for Cuba's relief and I have said before, as I am compelled to say now, that 20 per cent reduction will not be of any benefit."

"As for the proposal to limit the reduction to December of next year, I can only comment on it by saying that the whole resolution appears to be not satisfactory. The Cubans have entertained the hope of a greater reduction."

Hundreds of thousands of tons of sugar

Conferece of Cubans.

President Palma is in New York today conferring with Cuban officials relative to the sugar situation.

In an interview this morning the President declares that the action of the Republican conference last night will afford the island no relief—the proposed tariff reduction being entirely insufficient.

Cuba, however, he says, will not seek to escape the starvation which he thinks threatens her, by asking for annexation. The people of the island, he declares, would rather perish than surrender their dream of a republic.

gar are stored up in Cuba waiting for a market. The total product this year will be 700,000 or 800,000 tons, which should bring the producers as much as \$40 a ton, or a total of over \$30,000,000, while the total tobacco crop is probably worth not more than \$8,000,000.

Of course, the production of sugar would reach even higher figures under favorable conditions from the United States, probably 1,000,000 tons next year. During the first year after the war the crop was only 200,000 tons, and it has been steadily increasing each year, the producers hoping all along for a reduction of the tariff.

Cannot Help Themselves.

"Of course Congress will act in accordance with its own views and we cannot help it. Cuba will submit to her destiny, whatever it may be. The sugar planters of Cuba are in the worst plight, as they look solely to the United States for a market, while the tobacco growers can still turn to Europe. Then, too, the sugar planters have hundreds of millions of dollars invested in mills, which cannot be operated until a reasonable price is obtained for the product, while the tobacco growers are not called upon to make such expensive investments. The only way to save the enormous capital invested in sugar mills in Cuba is to find a market for the product in this country."

Won't Give Up Independence.

"What effect would a decision by Congress to limit the reduction to 20 per cent have in Cuba on the question of annexation to the United States?" General Palma was asked.

"Oh, annexation. The Cubans never think at all of annexation," was the quick reply. "The aim, the aspiration, the ideal of the Cuban people has been a Cuban Republic. For if they have fought and shed their blood, they will never give up their ideal, no matter if they starve. It will be a pity they cannot be prosperous in a good reciprocal relation with the United States, but if it is necessary they will starve before abandoning their independent government. They are ready to submit to their destiny."

REFUND OF LICENSE TAXES OFFICIALLY RECOMMENDED

Acting District Assessor Urges That the Bills Now Before Congress Be Given Prompt Approval.

Mr. E. W. W. Griffin, Acting Assessor, has forwarded to the District Commissioners a report upon House bill 10,389 and Senate bill 3,208, identical measure, which provide for the refund of certain license taxes paid into the District treasury.

It appears that in compliance with the law then existing wholesale and retail liquor dealers made application for license in the usual manner on or before November 1, 1892, and with a few exceptions the amounts required were deposited. On March 3, 1893, Congress passed an act regulating the sale of intoxicating liquors in the District. Under the terms of this law the Excise Board was created and the rate of barroom and wholesale licenses was increased.

Mr. Griffin states that at this time many licenses had been granted for the year expired October 31, 1892. Some, he says, had been rejected and other applications were still pending. Under orders of the Commissioners dated May 3, 1893, liquor dealers, according to the report, were again required to deposit pro rata amounts

from the date of the passage of the new law.

"Subsequently," continues Mr. Griffin, "on June 6, 1893, the Court of Appeals made a decision affirming the validity of all liquor licenses issued prior to the passage of the new law, and the Commissioners by publication notified all dealers that the several amounts paid under their order of May 3, 1893, would be refunded upon application. Payment by separate voucher, at first adopted, was succeeded by regular pay rolls made direct from the books of the Collector of Taxes, on which receipts for the several amounts were taken."

Mr. Griffin submits with his report a list of the claimants under the bill with the amounts claimed by each. He gives a history of each case with the date of reference to the Auditor, and Mr. Griffin expresses the opinion that with a very few exceptions the amounts due have been repaid.

He recommends, however, that such claims as shall prove to be due be refunded under the terms of the proposed bill, and for that reason he recommends its passage.

LONGEVITY PAY URGED FOR CLERKS

Ten Per Cent Increase for Each Five Years' Service.

All Persons on the Government Rolls for More Than Two Decades to Rank Equally—Referred to Committee.

Representative Brownlow of Tennessee, by request, introduced in the House today a bill to give longevity pay to all employees in the classified Government service.

The bill provides that for each five years of continuous service every employee shall have his or her salary increased 10 per centum, but in no event shall the increase ever exceed 40 per centum.

The bill was referred to the Committee on Reform in the Civil Service.

MANILA OCCUPATION TOLD BY GEN. OTIS

Former Military Commander Concludes His Testimony.

THE TAKING OF ILOILO CITY

Acted on His Own Authority, He Admits, and Sorry He Did Not Do So Earlier, Requested to Act by the Spanish Governor General.

By the use of maps of the city of Manila, Major General Otis in continuing his testimony before the Senate Committee on the Philippines today explained to the Democrats of the committee that in ordering the Filipino forces to withdraw beyond certain lines he did not assume to take possession of any territory beyond that expressly turned over to the American forces by the protocol between the United States and Spain. The Democrats have been trying to show that the Americans exceeded their authority as conferred by the protocol and thereby brought on the hostilities with the Filipinos.

Mr. Rawlins asked whether when General Otis threatened to use force if the Filipinos did not withdraw it would have meant war.

General Otis said it would. "I think, now, he continued, 'that if we had used force at that time we would have brought matters to a climax and perhaps have stopped what has happened since. My authority came from the President of the United States, who ordered that there should be no dual occupation of the city of Manila.'"

General Otis also said that the Americans never did go outside of the city, and did not even occupy the Spanish defenses and entrenchments, which the insurgents were allowed to hold. In response to Mr. Rawlins, he said that under the protocol the Americans would not have had the right to go beyond the city and defenses so long as they were not attacked.

In further support of the Democratic contention that the American forces went beyond the limits of the protocol, which placed only the "city," bay, and harbor of Manila in their control, Mr. Rawlins asked a series of questions regarding the taking of the city of Iloilo, which occurred before the ratification of the treaty of Paris.

General Otis entered into a detailed statement of the conditions at that city and the reasons that actuated him in sending General Miller to take possession. He said that he was first invited to take the place by the Spanish Governor General, and afterward by the people of the town themselves for the purpose of protecting life and property.

Asked whether his action was not contrary to the protocol, he said that he considered it to be an emergency and that he had always been sorry he did not act on his own responsibility and take Iloilo earlier, instead of waiting for instructions from Washington.

Because General Otis wants to leave here tonight, the committee held another session, beginning at 2:30 this afternoon, to finish his examination.

H. A. GARFIELD WILL NOT ACCEPT PLACE

James R., His Brother, Probably Will, However.

Civil Service Commissionership Has Not Yet Been Offered to Latter, But Will Be.

Mr. Harry A. Garfield, of Cleveland, Ohio, a son of President Garfield, will not accept the vacancy on the Civil Service Commission caused by the retirement of W. A. Rodenburg.

The place will probably be offered to his brother, James R. Garfield, of Mentor, Ohio.

Mr. Harry Garfield is at present so situated that acceptance of the Civil Service bill would involve considerable sacrifice of a financial nature.

It is thought that Mr. James R. Garfield will accept the position if it is tendered him.

He is much interested in civil service reform.

He was formerly a member of the Ohio State Senate. He was once a candidate for election to Congress, but was defeated.

DEVEAUX TO BE RETAINED.

Will Be Reappointed Collector of the Port of Savannah.

It was announced at the White House this afternoon that Mr. J. H. Deveau would be reappointed collector of the port of Savannah.

W. A. Pledger, colored, chairman of the State Central Committee of Georgia, was a caller on the President this afternoon. Mr. Roosevelt assured him that he would support the regular Republican organization in the State.

CRACKSMEN CAUSE A FIRE.

Start Destructive Conflagration by Blowing a Safe.

MARISSA, Ill., March 19.—Safe-blowers caused a fire here last night.

They entered the Commercial Hotel, where fifty persons were asleep, and blew open the safe, escaping \$2,500.

The robbers escaped, leaving the building in flames.

The fire burned along the square until a dozen business buildings and several residences were destroyed.

120-Hour Blockade Lifted.

ST. PAUL, Minn., March 19.—After a 120-hour blockade, trains from the Pacific Coast reached here today. Ten complete trains are still in the Dakota country. The loss for the companies will aggregate \$500,000.

EXPERT TESTIMONY AGAIN.

Question of Calligraphy in Patrick Trial Once More.

NEW YORK, March 19.—Handwriting testimony from experts was the programme announced today by counsel for the defense in the trial of Albert T. Patrick, for the murder of William Marsh Rice.

The prosecution called experts, who testified at length that, in their opinion, the signature of W. M. Rice on all the disputed documents—will, checks, and assignment—were forgeries, and went into minute details to explain their conclusions.

The defense said that it also had experts to call, so that all the prosecution's evidence on that point might be offset.

These experts will try to prove that the signatures were all the voluntary act of Rice. An expert testimony on handwriting is necessarily long, there was small hope when the trial began this morning of getting through with it before the day ended.

After the experts, the plan is to have Mrs. Frances Patrick's former landlady take the stand.

She will testify along the lines of the alibi built up for the defendant on Monday.

It is thought that the case may go to the jury by the end of next week.

COLOMBIA RENEWS ITS GUARANTEE

Declares Clear Panama Title Will Be Given.

Senor Concha Says Delay Was Occasioned by the Numerous Questions Propounded by Canal Commission.

Senor Concha, successor to Senor Silva, as Minister to this country from Colombia, has presented to this Government a renewal of the guarantee that a clear title will be given the United States to the Panama Canal. Colombia, he states, is anxious to give assurances or grant concessions of any kind that may tend to smooth the way to the transfer of the property.

He claims that this guarantee would have been given several weeks ago, had it not been for a delay caused by the submission to this Government through Minister Silva of a long list of questions which must be answered at Bogota. These, he claims, are now being considered there and the response will be forwarded in a very short time. These inquiries were made by Admiral Walker, president of the Canal Commission.

This new proposition will undoubtedly be sent by Secretary Hay to the Senate and referred to the Senate Committee on Inter-oceanic Canals.

HITCHCOCK REPORT AGAIN CIRCULATED

His Brother's Death May Lead to His Early Resignation—No Cabinet Place for Evans.

As a result of the death of his brother, Mr. Henry Hitchcock, in St. Louis yesterday, it was reported today that Secretary Hitchcock will soon tender his resignation to President Roosevelt.

Mr. Hitchcock will have thrust upon him an immense amount of business connected with his brother's estate. The report that he will retire from the Cabinet, is, however, met with denial in official sources and emphatic denial is made to the report that he will be succeeded by H. Clay Evans, Commissioner of Pensions.

The latter denial is from so high a source that it may be regarded as authentic.

This new proposition will undoubtedly be sent by Secretary Hay to the Senate and referred to the Senate Committee on Inter-oceanic Canals.

However, it is generally understood that Mr. Evans will be given an important Government post. He would like a foreign mission, and the billet at Mexico City, should Ambassador Clayton retire, as a result of the charges against him, or at Rome, should Ambassador Meyer return to the country to reside permanently, are possible places which may be extended Mr. Evans.

This all depends, of course, on whether or not Mr. Evans retires from his present position, which he is said to desire to do, when he can do so without the impression being given that he is being forced out.

HID STOLEN JEWEL UNDER WASHSTAND

Hotel Johnson Chambermaid Charged With Theft.

Miss Burke Claims She Found Brooch on the Floor and Thought It Unnecessary to Report.

A well-dressed young woman, giving the name of Lizzie Burke and her age as thirty-three years, who has been employed as a maid in the Hotel Johnson for some time, was taken into custody today morning by Detective Sergeant Peck and Miller on a charge of petty larceny.

The woman, it is alleged, stole from Miss Rilla Moorhead, of Erie, Pa., a guest of the hotel, a brooch set with diamonds and pearls, valued at \$50. When the detectives searched the accused woman's broom hidden under a washstand, while a handsome six-year-old was found in one of the bureau drawers. The police will endeavor to locate the owner of the scarf.

The woman was brought to Headquarters where she admitted taking the pin, saying that she found it on the floor, and as no one spoke to her regarding it she did not think it necessary to turn it in.

The Burke woman lives at 2157 Eighth Street northwest, and her relatives have been notified of her arrest. She has been sent to the House of Detention to await a hearing in court tomorrow morning on a charge of petty larceny.

MIKE DONLIN CONVICTED

Pleaded Guilty to Assaulting Miss Minnie Fields.

BALTIMORE, March 19.—Mike Donlin, the ball player, pleaded guilty to first assault in the criminal court this morning, and was sentenced to six months in jail and fined \$250.

SPOONER ANSWERS BACON'S ARGUMENT

Upholds Power of Congress to Punish Offences.

NO STATE RIGHTS AT ISSUE

National Government Enforces Laws Against Counterfeiters and Other Lawbreakers and Can Also Crush Those of Anarchistic Tendencies Anywhere.

When the bill for the protection of the President of the United States was taken up in the Senate today, Mr. Spooner continued the legal discussion of the proposed law. He took a position in favor of the bill and against the contentions made by Senator Bacon, along the line of State rights.

He said that undoubtedly Congress has the power to make Federal criminal laws to punish offences of any nature against the General Government. Mr. Bacon had argued that in limiting the definition of treason the framers of the Constitution had intended to restrict Congress to making criminal laws against only the crime of treason; and that the States should not be deprived of their right to punish for crimes committed within their borders.

This, Mr. Spooner said, is clearly a mistaken view. Congress makes laws for the punishment of offences against the postal service, against the Interstate Commerce Commission, against the counterfeiting of money, and many other similar crimes.

Mr. Spooner went on to argue that the Federal Government should punish a crime against any of its officials representing the legislative power. There is not one of them, he said, around which Congress has not the power to throw the protecting shield of this Government in the States and outside the States. It would be a strange confession of weakness if the Government of the United States was obliged to rely for the protection of its officials, great and humble, on the legislature and judiciary of the States.

In this connection Mr. Spooner recalled the case of the attack on Judge Field by Terry, who was killed by Deputy Marshal Nagle. The question, he said, had been elaborately and very ably argued, it being contended that the offence of killing Terry was one against the peace and dignity of the State of California, and that there was no "peace of the United States" within a State. That contention had been overruled by the Supreme Court.

CECIL RHODES' CONDITION.

Patient Shows Some Signs of Improvement.

CAPE TOWN, March 19.—Cecil Rhodes is now taking a fair amount of nourishment.

There is no perceptible change in his condition.

Dr. Jameson ascribes these good symptoms to the exceptionally cool weather now prevailing, and to the use of oxygen, which is freely administered.

Mr. Rhodes smiled when the sympathetic message from Queen Alexandra was read to him, and asked Dr. Jameson to thank her Majesty for her telegram.

He takes less interest in public matters and no longer reads his letters or the newspapers.

He has abandoned his idea of getting up and sailing for England.

SPANISH CABINET FORMED.

Sagasta's List Slightly Modified by the Queen Regent.

MADRID, March 19.—Premier Sagasta presented the list of his new cabinet to the Queen Regent at noon today.

The Queen has indicated the Premier to make some slight modifications in the radical programme of the new cabinet, and it is now believed to be strong enough to last over Alfonso's coronation, which is scheduled to take place in May.

TO FLY AT ST. LOUIS.

Santos-Dumont Accepts World's Fair Invitation.

PARIS, March 19.—M. Santos-Dumont, the aeronaut, has accepted the invitation of the St. Louis Exposition authorities to visit the grounds of the exposition as their guest and arrange for a dirigible balloon race in 1903, and to take part therein.

The aeronaut expects to sail for America on April 4 on board the Hamburg-American liner Deutschland.

MR. CRITTENTON COMING.

Founder of an Important Work to Be Entertained Here.

A monthly meeting of the auxiliary committee of the Florence Crittenton Home and Help Mission was held in the parlors of the home yesterday afternoon. There was a large attendance, and great interest manifested, there being quite a number of visitors present. The committee is composed of Christian women workers for the cause, and their efforts are being crowned with most satisfactory results.

Mr. Charles N. Crittenton, founder of the home, is expected in the city the early part of next week, to hold a two weeks' revival service.

A reception will be tendered Mr. Crittenton at an early date, to which the public will be invited.

ARMY OFFICERS ASSIGNED.

MacArthur, Funston, and Kobbé Given Choice Billets.

The Secretary of War today promulgated an order assigning to the command of the departments indicated the following general officers of the army:

Major General Arthur MacArthur, Department of the Lakes, Chicago; Brigadier General Frederick Funston, Department of the Colorado, Denver; Brigadier General W. A. Kobbé, Department of the Dakotas, St. Paul, Minn.

The order will take effect March 23.

PROTEST IN BEHALF OF COLORED VETERANS

Outline of the Complaint.

The colored clergymen in their protest ask that the black soldier be placed on the same footing with the white in the matter of preparations for the coming G. A. R. Encampment. It is alleged that this has not been done in the plans so far arranged by the local citizens' committee. The committee has not as yet given the protest filed with Chairman Warner today consideration, but will probably look into its merits at an early date.

MAJOR WALLER'S CASE MAY NEVER BE TRIED

Mixed Court's Lack of Authority Upheld.

Unless General Chaffee Insists Upon Action by Navy Further Proceedings Are Now Regarded as Unlikely.

There is a possibility that Major Littleton W. T. Waller, of the Marine Corps, will never be tried on the charges preferred against him by army officers for alleged inhuman treatment of Filipinos in the island of Samar.

According to the War Department the action of the mixed court of army and marine officers in holding now they have no jurisdiction in the Waller case was perfectly correct. If Major Waller had been tried while on detached service with the army by such a court it would have been legal, but as he is now under naval command the case can be tried only by officers of the naval and marine corps. Of course, officers admit, the navy cannot try Major Waller on the charges brought against him, but unless General Chaffee sees fit to press the matter the case will probably be dropped.

Major Waller is held in high respect and has the confidence of the Navy Department and the Marine Corps. The circumstances attending his march across Samar are said to be extenuating in view of the arduous character of the duty and extreme privations endured by the officers and men.

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Discrimination Is Charged Against the G. A. R. Reunion Plans.

CLAIMS OF THE BLACK SOLDIERS

Clergymen Lay the Matter Before Chairman B. H. Warner.

PROGRESS MADE IN THE WORK

Secretary Bulkley Expresses Gratification Over the Stage Reached in the Matter of Arranging for the Great Encampment—Finance Committee Meets.

The colored clergymen of Washington this afternoon filed with Mr. B. H. Warner, chairman of the citizens' committee in charge of the arrangements for the G. A. R. encampment, their protest against what they believe to be discrimination against the colored veterans in the plans for the entertainment of and care for the old soldiers during the coming reunion.

The protest was prepared by a committee composed of the Revs. O. M. Waller, Sterling N. Brown, and B. J. Bolding. It is signed by A. C. Garner, J. E. Thomas, F. J. Grinke, O. M. Waller, T. M. Nixon, D. G. Hill, S. N. Brown, and B. J. Bolding.

Text of the Protest.

"We, the undersigned pastors of Washington, D. C., learning through the public press that it is the intention of the G. A. R. encampment to 'specialize' the colored veteran at the coming encampment, do earnestly protest against any arrangement that indicates an invidious distinction of treatment between old soldiers simply on account of color